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The Old man

West-Smithfield
[London]

[18--]

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THE

OLD MAN,
HIS CHILDREN,
AND THE
BUNDLE of STICKS.



SOLD BY J. EVANS AND CO.

(Printers to the Cheap Repository for Moral and Religious
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Entered at Stationers Hall.

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THE
OLD MAN, *his* CHILDREN,
AND THE
Bundle of Sticks.

A GOOD old man, no matter where,
Whether in York or Lancashire,
Or on a hill or in a dale,
It cannot much concern the tale;
Had children very much like others,
Compos'd of sisters and of brothers;
In life he had not much to give,
But his example how to live;
His luck was what his neighbors had,
For some where good and some were bad;
When of their father death bereft 'em,
His good advice was all he left 'em.

DEC 31 1925

The good old man who long had lain,
 Afflicted with disease and pain;
 With difficulty drew his breath,
 And felt the sure approach of death.
 He still had liv'd an honest life,
 Kind to his neighbor and his wife;
 His practice good his faith was sound,
 He built his hope on scripture ground;
 And knowing life hangs on a breath,
 He always liv'd prepar'd for death.
 He trusted God, nor fear'd to die,
 May it be thus with you and I!
 Nor let us hope to die content,
 Unless our life be wisely spent.
 He call'd his children round his bed,
 And thus unto them all he said:
 Alas ! alas ! my children dear,
 I well perceive my end is near;
 I suffer much, but kiss the rod,
 And bow me to the will of God.
 Yet ere from you I'm quite remov'd,
 From you whom always I have lov'd;

I wish to give you all my blessing,
 And leave you with a useful lesson;
 That when I've left this world of care,
 Each may his testimony bear,
 How much my latest thoughts inclin'd
 To prove me tender, good, and kind!
 Observe that faggot on the ground,
 With twisted hazel firmly bound:—
 The children turn'd their eyes that way,
 And view'd the faggot as it lay;
 But wonder'd what their father meant;
 Who thus expounded his intent.
 I wish that all of you would take it,
 And try if any one can break it,
 Obedient to the good old man,
 They all to try their strength began;
 Now boy now girl; now he now she,
 Apply'd the faggot to their knee;
 They tugg'd and strain'd and try'd again,
 But still they tugg'd and try'd in vain;
 In vain their strength and skill exerted,
 The faggot every effort thwarted.

And when their labour vain they found,
They threw the faggot on the ground.

Again the good old man proceeded,
To give th' instruction which they needed ;
Untwist, says he, the hazel bind,
And let the faggot be disjoin'd ;
Then stick by stick, and twig by twig,
The little children and the big,
Foll'wing the words their father spoke,
Each sprig and spray they quickly broke ;
There father ! all began to cry,
I've broken mine ! and I, and I.

Replied the Sire, 'twas my intent,
My family to represent ;
While you are join'd in friendship's thong,
My dearest children you'll be strong ;
But if by quarrel and dispute,
You undermine affection's root,
And thus the strength'ning cord divide,
Then will my children ill betide :
E'en beasts of prey in bands unite,
And kindly for each other fight ;

And shall not Christian children be,
 Join'd in sweet links of amity?
 If separate you'll each be weak,
 Each like a single stick will break;
 But if you're firm, and true and hearty;
 The world and all its spite can't part ye.
 The father having clos'd his lesson,
 Proceeded to pronounce his blessing:
 Embrac'd them all, then pray'd and sigh'd,
 Look'd up, then dropt his head—and dy'd.

And thus, my countrymen shou'd you,
 And I, and all, be firm and true;
 If Christian faith and love combine us,
 And sweet affection's cords intwine us;
 We need encourage no dejection,
 Secure in the DIVINE PROTECTION.
 In prosperous days we'll bless our GOD,
 And when he smites, we'll kiss the rod.

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